



November 30, 2021

State Representative Bronna Kahle, Chairperson
& Members of the Health Policy Committee
Michigan House of Representatives
House Office Building Room 519
Lansing MI

Dear Representative Kahle and Committee Members;

We are writing to express our strong support for the Lead Bill Package of House Bills 5413-5421 and HB 5423 introduced by Representatives Anthony, Young, Witwer, Neeley, Wendzel, Rodgers, Calley, Beson, Lily and Hood.

We represent parents from Detroit whose children/grandchildren/nieces/nephews have been lead poisoned and have suffered long term devastating consequences of slowed learning, hyperactivity, lowered IQs.

Lead poisoning made headlines in 2014 with the emergence of the Flint Water Crisis and more recently with Benton Harbor. However, while lead poisoning can come from water, the number #1 pathway for poisoning children is paint dust and lead paint chips from lead paint. Between these two pathways, lead paint and water, thousands of Michigan children are lead poisoned each year.

We must change our laws to help children impacted by the **devastating, lifelong consequences of lead** and to increase access to crucial health services.

The Lead Package includes 10 bills (listing attached) including:

-- Updates the purpose of Public Health Code so the definition of "elevated blood lead level" is in line with the current CDC definition. Currently, the level stands at 10 micrograms per deciliter, out of step with CDC guidance for an elevated blood lead level. **Changing this definition will allow more lead affected children to access services they need**

-- Requires a **lead paint inspection to be completed** on the sale of any home that was built before 1978

--Requires **children enrolled in MICHild and Medicaid** to have enhanced coverage for lead screenings

--Requires **an automatic referral to Early On** for every child who has an elevated blood lead level--giving families access to additional resources and support to deal with the consequences of early childhood lead poisoning

--Calls for adoption of the federal EPA Renovation, Repair and Painting (RRP) Rule. The EPA has requested that Michigan pursue the development and authorization of TSCA RRP Program. The goal of RRP is to increase the protection of Michigan children and families from the dangers of lead-based paint (LBP) hazards by mandating that contractors are RRP certified.

--Require physicians to take a course to identify and treat lead poisoning as part of their continuing medical education (CME).

Michigan must do more to protect our children from the devastation of lead poisoning. This package goes a long way to do just that and we encourage your support.

Sincerely,

Sincerely.

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On behalf of the DLEAD/Detroit Lead Parent Advocacy Group

P.S. Please feel free to reach out to us with questions or concerns by contacting DLEAD Staff Mary Sue Schottenfels (msschott22@gmail.com) or Iselda Esquivel (ag5943@wayne.edu).